Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs starting on page 36, last paragraph, through page 38, first paragraph, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

"Ala (residue ~~24~~ 25) to Ser (residue 419); Pro (~~25~~ 26) to Ser (419); Ala (~~26~~ 27) to Ser (419); Ala (~~27~~ 28) to Ser (419); Ala (~~28~~ 29) to Ser (419); Ala (~~29~~ 30) to Ser (419); Ala (~~30~~ 31) to Ser (419); Phe (~~31~~ 32) to Ser (419); Glu (~~32~~ 33) to Ser (419); Ser (~~33~~ 34) to Ser (419); Gly (~~34~~ 35) to Ser (419); Leu (~~35~~ 36) to Ser (419); Asp (~~36~~ 37) to Ser (419); Leu (~~37~~ 38) to (Ser (419); Ser (~~38~~ 39) to Ser (419); Asp (~~39~~ 40) to Ser (419); Ala (~~40~~ 41) to Ser (419); Glu (~~41~~ 42) to Ser (419); Pro (~~42~~ 43) to Ser (419); Asp (~~43~~ 44) to Ser (419); Ala (~~44~~ 45) to Ser (419); Gly (~~45~~ 46) to Ser (419); Glu (~~46~~ 47) to Ser (419); Ala (~~47~~ 48) to Ser (419); Thr (~~48~~ 49) to Ser (419); Ala (~~49~~ 50) to Ser (419); Tyr (~~50~~ 51) to Ser (419); Ser (~~52~~ 53) to Ser (419); Asp (~~54~~ 55) to Ser (419); Val (~~62~~ 63) to Ser (419); Val (~~65~~ 66) to Ser (419); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Met (418); Met (1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Gln (417); Met (1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Pro (416); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Arg (415); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Gln (414); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Trp (413); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Tyr (412); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Ser (411); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Pro (410); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Val (409); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Cys (408); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Arg (407); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Cys (406); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Val (405); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Glu (404); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Glu (403); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Ser (402); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Gly (398); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Pro (397); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala

(~~24~~ 25) to Lys (393); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Met(263); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Asp(311); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) to Pro (~~367~~ 366); Met(1) to Ser (419); Met(1) to Ser(228); Glu(47) to Ser(419); Ala(111) to Lys(214); Ala(112) to Lys(214); His(113) to Lys(214); Tyr(114) to Lys(214); Asn(115) to Lys(214); Thr(116) to Lys(214); Thr(103) to Leu(215); Glu(104) to Leu(215); Glu(105) to Leu(215); Thr(106) to Leu(215); Ile(107) to Leu(215); Lys(108) to Leu(215); Phe(109) to Leu(215); Ala(110) to Leu(215); Ala(111) to Leu(215); Ala(112) to Leu(215); His(113) to Leu(215); Tyr(114) to Leu(215); Asn(115) to Leu(215); Thr(116) to Leu(215); Thr(103) to Ser(228); Glu(104) to Ser(228); Glu(105) to Ser(228); Thr(106) to Ser(228); Ile(107) to Ser(228); Lys(108) to Ser(228); Phe(109) to Ser(228); Ala(110) to Ser(228); Ala(111) to Ser(228); Ala(112) to Ser(228); His(113) to Ser(228); Tyr(114) to Ser(228); Asn(115) to Ser(228); Thr(116) to Ser(228); Thr(103) to Leu(229); Glu(104) to Leu(229); Thr(103) to Arg(227); Glu(104) to Arg(227); Glu(105) to Arg (227); Thr(106) to Arg (227); Ile(107) to Arg (227); Lys(108) to Arg (227); Phe(109) to Arg (227); Ala(110) to Arg (227); Ala(111) to Arg (227); Ala(112) to Arg (227); His(113) to Arg (227); Tyr(114) to Arg (227); Asn(115) to Arg (227); Thr(116) to Arg (227); Thr(103) to Ser(213); Glu(104) to Ser(213); Glu(105) to Ser(213); Thr(106) to Ser(213); Ile(107) to Ser(213); Lys(108) to Ser(213); Phe(109) to Ser(213); Ala(110) to Ser(213); Ala(111) to Ser(213); Ala(112) to Ser(213); His(113) to); Tyr(114) to Ser(213); Asn(115) to Ser(213); Thr(116) to Ser(213); Thr(103) to Lys(214); Glu(104) to Lys(214); Glu(105) to Lys(214); Thr(106) to Lys(214); Ile(107) to Lys(214); Lys(108) to Lys(214); Phe(109) to Lys(214); Ala(110) to Lys(214); Glu(105) to Leu(229); Thr(106) to Leu(229); Ile(107) to Leu(229); Lys(108) to Leu(229); Phe(109) to Leu(229); Ala(110) to Leu(229); Ala(111) to Leu(229); Ala(112) to Leu(229);

His(113) to Leu(229); Tyr(114) to Leu(229); Asn(115) to Leu(229); Thr(116) to Leu(229).

Preferred embodiments include the following deletion mutants: Thr(103) -- Arg(227); Glu(104) -- Arg(227); Ala(112) -- Arg (227); Thr(103) -- Ser(213); Glu(104) -- Ser(213); Thr(103) -- Leu(215); Glu(47) -- Ser(419); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) -- Met(263); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) -- Asp(311); Met(1), Glu (~~23~~ 24), or Ala (~~24~~ 25) -- Pro (~~367~~ 366); Met(1) -- Ser(419); and Met(1) -- Ser(228) of (Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2))."